



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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## **Virginia ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in nation for family caregivers**

*Nominations now being accepted for Governor's Caregiver Recognition Award*

**Richmond, Va.** — More than one million Virginians are primary caregivers for loved ones, rarely receiving compensation or notice for their efforts. To honor them, nominations are now being accepted for the Governor's Caregiver Recognition Award (GCRA).

"This serves as a reminder of the invaluable acts of compassion and care made by so many family members and friends throughout the Commonwealth. Please consider nominating someone you know," said Governor Timothy Kaine.

Virginia ranks 12th in the nation in the number of family caregivers, with more than 700,000 people caring for relatives, according to a recent report issued by the [National Family Caregivers Association](http://www.nfcares.org) ([www.nfcares.org](http://www.nfcares.org)).

Nine Virginians received the GCRA last year, including a Big Stone Gap woman who provides round-the-clock care for her mother afflicted with Alzheimer's disease and a Front Royal woman who has provided care for dozens of abused, neglected, abandoned and runaway children.

The GCRA, in its third year, is sponsored by the Virginia Council on the Status of Women. This year's winners will be honored at a special luncheon, ceremony and plaque presentation on April 23 at the [2008 Virginia Conference on Volunteerism and Community Service in Virginia Beach](http://www.vaservice.org/go/conference) ([www.vaservice.org/go/conference](http://www.vaservice.org/go/conference)). Recipients will be notified in March.

Nomination forms are available at [www.dss.virginia.gov/community/council\\_women](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/council_women) or by e-mailing [council.women@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:council.women@dss.virginia.gov). All nominations must be postmarked, received via fax, mail or e-mail no later than close of business on Monday, Feb. 4. Mail forms to Council on the Status of Women, 7 N. Eighth Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Richmond, VA 23219. Fax forms to (804) 726-7015 or e-mail to [council.women@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:council.women@dss.virginia.gov). Incomplete nomination packets and nominations postmarked or delivered after the deadline will not be considered. For more information, call Karin Clark at (804) 726-7017 or visit [www.dss.virginia.gov](http://www.dss.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Social Services administers social services programs, consistent with federal and state law and policy of the State Board of Social Services, through 120 local departments of social services throughout the state and its home office in Richmond. The VDSS mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse, and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."*

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*Editor's note: Interviews are available upon request. For additional story ideas and information, contact Carla Harris, VDSS, (804) 726-7107 or [carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:carla.harris@dss.virginia.gov).*